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their leaves, but are always verdant, and perpetually loaded with fruits of one kind or another.

Here, however, the brute creation are more at enmity with one another than in other climates, and the birds are obliged to exert unusual artifice in placing their little broods out of the reach of an invader. Each aims at the same end, though by different means. Some form their pensile nest in shape of a purse, deep, and open at the top, others with a hole in the side; and others, still more cautious, with an entrance at the very bottom, forming their lodge near the summit.

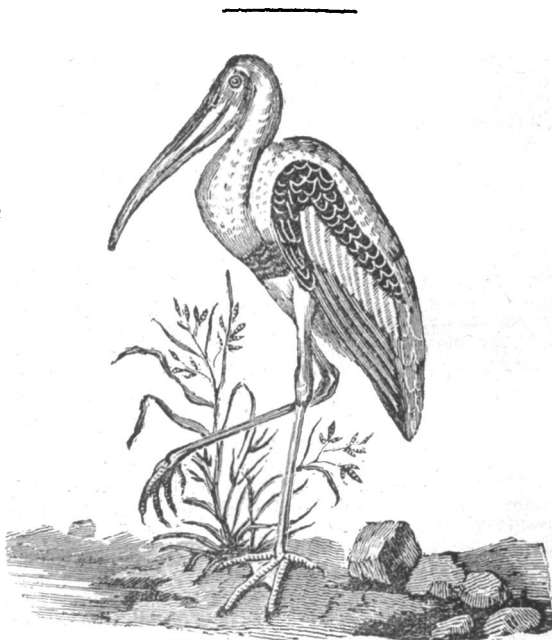


THE TAILOR BIRD—(*Motacilla Sutoria*.)

The little species we describe, seems to have greater diffidence than any of the others; it will not trust its nest even to the extremity of a slender twig, but makes one more advance to safety by fixing it to the leaf itself. It picks up a dead leaf, and sews it to the side of a

living one, its slender bill being its needle, and its thread some fine fibres; the lining, feathers, gossamer, and down. Its eggs are white. The color of the bird light yellow: its length three inches, its weight only three-sixteenths of an ounce, so that the materials of the nest, and its own size, are not likely to draw down a habitation that depends on so slight a tenure.

Had Providence left the feathered tribe unendowed with any particular instinct, the birds of the torrid zone would have built their nests in the same unguarded manner as those of Europe; but there the lesser species, conscious of inhabiting a climate replete with enemies to them and their young—with snakes that twine up the bodies of the trees, and apes that are perpetually in search of prey—taught by instinct, elude the gliding of the one, and the activity of the other.



THE WHITE-HEADED IBIS—(*Tantalus Leucocephalus*.)

In size it is much superior to our largest curlews. The bill is yellow, very long, and thick at the base, and a little incurvated; the nostrils very narrow, and placed near the head: all the fore part of the head is covered with a bare yellow, and seems a continuance of the bill, and the eyes are, in a very singular manner, placed very near its base. The rest of the head, the neck, back, belly, and secondary feathers are of a pure white; a transverse broad band of black crosses the breast; the quill-feathers, and coverts of the wings are black: the coverts of the tail are very long, and of a fine pink color; they hang over and conceal the tail. The legs and thighs are very long, and of a dull flesh color; the feet semi-palmated, or connected by webs as far as the first joint. This bird makes a snapping noise with its bill like a stork; and, what is remarkable, its fine rosy feathers lose their color during a rainy season.

#### IMPROMPTU,

On a lady's asking a gentleman which of all the views in the county of Wicklow was the *sweetest* :—

You bid me name the sweetest view  
In Wicklow's lovely county,  
Where nature sports with beauties new,  
And charms us with her bounty :

Avoca's vallies seem supreme,  
The Dargle's views are neatest;  
But men of *taste* will all exclaim,  
The *Sugar Loaf's* the *sweetest*.

W. J.